

Serial No. 10/726,963

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PATENT

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising a plurality of self expanding stents linked together by flexible links and defining an elongate substantially cylindrical lumen wall engaging surface and at least one of the stents having a bio-compatible graft material cover outside of the at least one stent thereby defining a covered stent portion and an uncovered stent assembly extending from the covered stent portion, the flexible links comprising a threads or fibers connected between adjacent stents in the uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ and wherein there are at least three covered stents of the plurality of stents in the covered stent portion and up to ten uncovered stents of the plurality of stents in the uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ each of the stents being of a zig-zag type and being formed from stainless steel or Nitinol.

2. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 1 wherein the cover is stitched or otherwise fastened to the stents in the covered stent portion.

3 and 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis as in Claim 1 wherein stents of the uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ comprise bends and the stents of the uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ are linked to adjacent stents by the threads or fibers threaded through the bends of the stents.

6. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 5 wherein the thread or fiber is connected to each bend by a knot selected from a half hitch, a thumb knot, two half hitches or a clove hitch.

7. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 1 wherein a proximal end of the covered portion of the prosthesis includes barbs extending from a stent of the plurality of stents through the cover to engage with the wall of the lumen when deployed.

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis as in Claim 1 wherein the uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ is in the form of a self expanding spiral stent of zig-zag configuration.

10 to 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising a covered portion defined by at least three self expanding stents within a tubular biocompatible graft material cover outside of the at least three self expanding stents and an uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ extending from one end of the covered portion, the uncovered stent assembly ~~portion~~ being defined by up to ten uncovered self expanding stents linked together by flexible links and defining an elongate substantially cylindrical lumen wall engaging surface wherein the flexible links comprise a thread or fiber threaded through bends of the stents.

18. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 17 wherein the tubular biocompatible graft material cover is stitched or otherwise fastened to the stents in the covered portion.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 17 wherein the thread or fiber is connected to each bend by a knot selected from a half hitch, a thumb knot, two half hitches or a clove hitch.

21. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 17 wherein one of the self expanding stents within a tubular biocompatible graft material cover includes barbs extending through the cover to engage with a wall of a lumen when deployed therein.

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22. (Previously Presented) A prosthesis as in Claim 17 wherein the stents are of a zig-zag type and are constructed from stainless steel or Nitinol.

23. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis as in Claim 17 wherein the uncovered stent assembly portion is in the form of a self expanding spiral stent of zig-zag configuration.